

**Amendments to the Specification**

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:*

A first embodiment of the invention is shown in FIGS. 1-3, in which an absorbent pad 30 is shown in place external to the anal orifice 32. The anal anatomy of a female is illustrated in these drawings, which show the anal sphincter 34 which closes the anal canal, and the anal valve 36 (FIG. 3) at the inferior aspect of the anal columns 38. The distal region of the anal canal, particularly inferior to the anal valve, is well innervated and exceedingly sensitive to pain, itching, and other disease processes. Anterior to the anal orifice 32 is the vaginal opening 40 and the urethral opening 42. The right and left gluteals 46, 48 appose one another, and generally form an intergluteal potential space 48 (FIGS. 1 and 3) that covers the anal orifice 32. This potential space can be opened by moving the gluteals away from one another (as particularly illustrated in FIG. 3).[[.]]